

BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Jim Haselton, President****Matt Disston, Vice President****Mike Safranski, Director****Glenn Acosta, Director****Ed Mandich, Director****GENERAL MANAGER****Don Chadd**

ON TAP

Volume 14 Issue 8**AUGUST 2008**

Are you at the “end of the line?”

What “end of the line?” In this case, it means the end of a water distribution pipeline. You probably are at the “end of the line” if you live on a cul de sac street or a street that has a dead end. Water flowing through these distribution lines is a special consideration for the District’s Water Department Staff. It has everything to do with chlorine.

Potable water, also called drinking water, must meet rigorous Federal standards for drinking water systems. One of these standards is the chlorine level. Chlorine is an excellent disinfectant and protects all of us who drink water from harmful bacteria. Federal standards require the minimum amount of chlorine in potable drinking water be maintained at 0.2 parts per million parts of water.

Unfortunately, chlorine has the ability to dissipate in water, literally vanish, through chemical interaction in the water over a period of time. It actually converts to sodium chloride (table salt, but in undetectable levels) and disinfection byproducts.

This brings us to the “end of the pipeline” issue. When the distribution pipelines are designed and installed, they are sized for two purposes: 1) to supply

water to the users (homes, buildings, etc.), and 2) to provide adequate fire flow to fire hydrants in the event of a fire. In almost every case, the fire flow requirement is the dominant factor for determining the size of the water distribution pipeline, and not the demand of the users of water.

Throughout the District, the distribution pipelines are typically 8 inches in diameter. These are fairly large lines and can deliver plenty of water. If the water isn’t used often enough, they simply store water, and the whole time they are storing water, the chlorine in the water begins to vanish.

How does the District protect its customers and assure that the potable water is meeting Federal standards? The District has a fire hydrant flushing program.

You may have seen District Water Department Staff flushing fire hydrants, sending many gallons of water into the street. At first glance, this appears to be an unnecessary waste of water, especially when the ongoing theme of this *On Tap* newsletter is water conservation.

2

When District Water Department Staff are engaged in fire hydrant flushing, the flushing process takes about 5 minutes at each fire hydrant. The flushing at each fire hydrant throughout the District is scheduled to be performed annually.

Fire hydrant flushing accomplishes two things: 1) it removes sediment buildup (if any) from the distribution lines, and 2) it brings fresh water into the line. This fresh water will have a normal chlorine residual and will guarantee protection against harmful bacteria. Water that is flushed onto the street or road is “dechlorinated” by the District Water Department Staff before it enters the storm drain system. While all distribution lines may not need to be flushed as frequently as others, a comprehensive fire hydrant flushing program of distribution lines is a precautionary protection for everyone.

Is it a waste of water? When it comes to public health, the answer is clearly “no.” And in some cases, the water is reused. In the greater Robinson Ranch and Dove Canyon areas, most of the water enters a storm drain system that is eventually captured by the District’s Dry Season Water Recovery System. This water is then added to the District’s Reclaimed Water System for reuse on areas irrigated with reclaimed water. The District has plans to expand this Dry Season Water Recovery System to capture virtually all of the dry season water (including flushed water from a fire hydrant) from the communities north of Plano Trabuco Road. With time, it is hoped the District can expand its dry season water recovery

TCWD'S ON TAP

effort in more of the District to continue its aggressive water conservation efforts.

The Regular Board Meeting is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the District office located at 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon. The public is encouraged to attend.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- ◇ **July 16, 2008 – Conducted a Public Hearing and established the fiscal year 2008/09 water standby assessments.**
- ◇ **Authorized the General Manager to provide a response to the May 2008 report, “Water Budgets, Not Water Rationing.”**
- ◇ **Received information relating to financial assumptions and water/sewer and reclaimed and recycled water rates.**
- ◇ **Received status updates relating to the Rose Canyon and Lang Wells Upgrades to Treatment Facilities Project and the Baker Regional Water Treatment Facility.**
- ◇ **Conducted a Closed Session.**

ON TAP is published and distributed by TCWD. We welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. Please call or write

Sharon E. Smith, Editor

TCWD's *ON-TAP*

Trabuco Canyon Water District

32003 Dove Canyon Drive

Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679

(949) 858-0277 (Telephone) 858-3025 (Facsimile)

589-6270 (Customer Service)

www.tcwd.ca.gov

